



THE JEWISH GAILY

FORWARD

Special
High Holy Days
Issue



OCTOBER 1981

TISHRI/HESHVAN 5742

A HOME OF OUR OWN!!

Chapter 4

Into the thick of it:

Our campaign to have a home of our own has been accelerating over the past few months. Some key developments:

1) The Decision: The Steering Committee, which includes all of the Va'ad members, has voted to turn all of our energy and attention towards the purchase and restoration of the Bush/Laguna Streets Synagogue. While "Bush Street," as we have come to call this building, was always the favorite choice of many of our Congregation members, we have explored other possible sites. Now Bush Street is clearly our first choice. This decision of the Steering Committee will signal a clear shift from "exploratory" to "serious" negotiations.

2) The Coordination: As we enter into "the thick of it," Building Campaign chair Walt Leiss announced that Paul Cohen, president of Sha'ar Zahav, will serve as Building Campaign coordinator. Paul will use his considerable talents to coordinate and communicate decisions, choices and developments. He can be reached at 929-9524 if you have any information, ideas or questions. Paul is wonderfully quick to remind us about the opportunity to make and develop quality relationships on personal as well as professional levels through this building campaign. There is still lots of work to be done. Come and bring your talents into this effort. Speak to Paul if you want to get involved.

(Continued on page 4.)

AND WE WERE THERE!

Under dim, nondescript skies above Union Square on Saturday, August 22 at noon, the whistles blared and the chants rose from scores of protesting groups. What were they protesting? The rally by none other than the local Moral Majority coalition, which calls itself Save Our Souls, San Francisco.

SOS, SF had begun about fifteen minutes later than scheduled and finished (Thank God!) about fifteen minutes earlier than scheduled. But the sunshine was right on schedule. It came out after they left the Square. During the hour or so that they occupied the platform, SOS "sang" one line over and over again about their savior's love and might. They sang with arms raised to overcast skies and with tight smiles or blank looks on their faces.

The protesting groups, which far outnumbered the SOS supporters, represented labor unions, political action groups, women's and third world associations, religious groups and other community groups who are outraged by the oppression and persecution that this religious right-wing group crusades for.

As I distributed leaflets concerning lesbian and gay religious groups (which, by the way, went into many willing hands) I overheard one young "moral" allegedly Christian soldier, bearded and Billed, say "These homosexuals are protesting now but someday they'll all be imprisoned."

(Continued on page 7.)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In early September, individuals, members of the Va'ad, committee chairs and friends participated in a weekend "Advance." Prior to the weekend, many concerns were expressed about the personal cost, the amount of free time, etc. At the closing session on Sunday, each of us expressed, in different words, the special closeness and love which we felt towards each other. We left Guerneville with a renewed sense of our purpose as a synagogue and most importantly, as a synagogue center.

Our work consisted of reviewing and modifying our goals, determining objectives and developing techniques for action. The goals we will advance during the year include:

- 1) Developing a greater feeling of the Congregation as "mishpachah" (family);
- 2) Enriching the non-sexist, inclusive language of our liturgy;
- 3) Enhancing our religious experiences and services
- 4) Renewed outreach to the Jewish community and to non-affiliated lesbian and gay Jews;
- 5) Involvement in specific social action programs;
- 6) Implementation of social/recreation programs;
- 7) Presentation of a varied educational program.

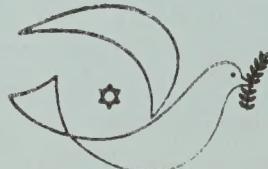
At our Sabbath morning learning period, Daniel and Linda helped us to realize that underlying these specific goals was a more general mission for the Congregation: That Sha'ar Zahav should provide all of its members with the opportunity to give of themselves and to share their energies and resources. The essence of "mishpachah" should not be programming for the members

by the leadership; rather, the leadership creates a setting and an atmosphere for full participation and belonging to an ever growing, changing, active family.

As gays and lesbians, many of us are not often called upon to be part of a family; with the sharing, receiving and giving of that support unit. When Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a true "mishpachah," it will enable its members to share their lives in a unique and fulfilling way. Then we will be calling on each other regularly, knowing the answer will be an enthusiastic "Yes."

During the Rosh Hashanah-Yom Kippur period, we ask to be inscribed for a year of health, happiness and life. I pray that each of our lives will be filled with the joy of giving and sharing through Sha'ar Zahav. May your year be sweet.

Shalom,
Paul J. Cohen



JOIN FREEDOM RUN!

On Sunday, October 18, Sha'ar Zahav will participate in the Freedom Run for Soviet Jewry, a ten kilometer (6.2 mile) race through the Presidio and past the Soviet consulate general. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; the race starts at 10:00 a.m. in Julius Kahn Park and will educate the public about the plight of refuseniks as well as help build public pressure on the Soviet government to recognize the human rights of dissidents. Billed as "The toughest 10K in the City," the difficult, hilly course was chosen specifically as a parallel to the difficulty of life in the Soviet Union, where religious and ethnic oppression is official, and systematic, government policy. Participants of all religious, ethnic, racial, economic and age groups are expected to run. Registration, which includes a T-shirt, is \$6 in advance or \$8 on race day. Flyers are available at services, or call Ron Lezell at 621-3930. You can also call the American Jewish Congress, sponsors of the event, 391-6590.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is the newsletter, published 12 times annually, of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P. O. Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given; credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Chad Cohen, Ira Kulkin, Cathy Nelson (chair), Chuck Norton and Richard Usem.

FROM WHERE I STAND

Each of us, as a member of the human family, has a unique personal history. Our individuality is one of the things which we often hold up as proof of the miraculous power of God, in that we are told that we are all created in the image of God and yet, despite our vast numbers on the planet, we are all different from one another.

While that may be wonderful, and even awe-inspiring, this remarkable individuality can sometimes make us feel alone and lonely. We find that we tend to drift towards others who are like us in some way, whether that similarity be in race, national identity, ethnic, cultural or religious identity, affectional orientation, and so on. Some of us feel drawn to each other through something we call spiritual bonds, which may be manifest through religion, politics, culture or some other means.

Our general tendency, then, is to come together as a group. Sha'ar Zahav increasingly has become a reason for that coming together and, as time passes, we find more and more people who walk into our lives and who come to join our synagogue family.

One of the central themes in Jewish life is that of family. Our existence as a synagogue has brought to the fore a multitude of issues related to the idea of family, which has elicited responses on the

subject in many areas of the Jewish community. Since we see ourselves not only as a synagogue, but specifically as a family, we approach many things differently from the way other synagogues do. Every member of Sha'ar Zahav is able to be a full participant in all aspects of the Congregation, from involvement in liturgy to more individualized things such as visiting the sick or studying Torah. While many of our members have felt excluded from full religious participation in other places, we offer support systems to our members which even their own, natural families have often been unwilling to do.

This year, as we begin anew, we see our Sha'ar Zahav family growing steadily in numbers and strength, reaching out in service and with love. Soon to be situated in our new home, having joined with hundreds of other liberal synagogues in a national Union, we will extend our family and our reach to our family more and more. We are all very excited about the year that lies before us. We hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity of sharing that joy of family with us.

May you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a good year.

Shalom,
Rabbi Allen B. Bennett



Rabbi Allen B. Bennett invites members and friends of the Congregation to an open house at his home, 1650 Page St., San Francisco, on Sunday, October 4, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

GOOD NEWS FROM CHICAGO

Saturday, September 12, was a very special day for members of our sibling synagogue, Congregation Or Chadash in Chicago. After a full Havdalah service, the Congregation's new Torah was dedicated. Two former Chicagoans, now members of Sha'ar Zahav, tell us that, while a Reform congregation was generous enough to loan Or Chadash a Torah for High Holy Days services each year, it was always one of that Congregation's dreams to have a Torah of their very own. Now, after a long fundraising drive, that particular dream has come true, and we send our sisters and brothers in Chicago every good wish for the New Year.

IRANIAN JEWS – AND FRIENDS – NOTE:

We have received a letter from Lily Kharrazi of the Emigre Department of Jewish Family and Children's Services, asking for assistance in locating Iranian Jews so that programs responding to the needs of this community can be planned. Ms. Kharrazi's telephone number is 567-8860; JFCS is at 1600 Scott Street, San Francisco.

HOME... (from page I)

3) The "What's Happening:" At press time, we have made contact with the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (present owners of the synagogue), the Pacific Hall Foundation (a group that has prior option-to-buy and that wants to work closely with us) the Zen Buddhist group that currently uses the Synagogue, and a Bay Area architectural and interior design firm, Life Design Systems, which has offered us free program design support for developing our "needs package," and a good attorney.

To review all the fascinating twists and turns of this purchase would fill a very thick book, and overwhelm a thin newsletter. It also would be instantly out-of-date. We will keep everyone informed, however, as accurately as possible, through this column, announcements and special mailings.

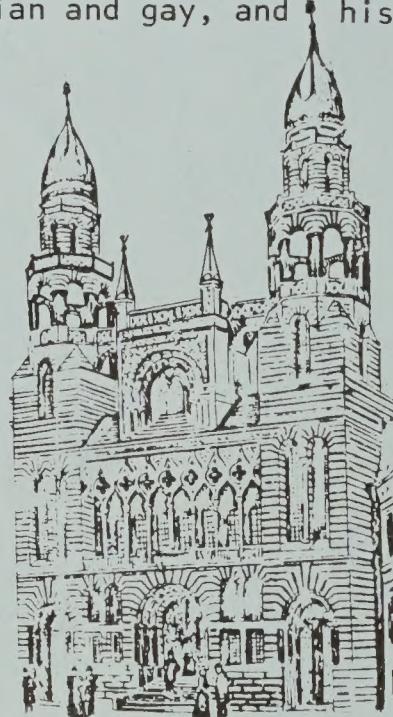
4) The Means: The fundraising process within our Congregation is "in the thick of it" (please don't let my overuse of this wonderful cliche' make you think we will build our synagogue in the forests of Golden Gate Park). To date, we have received \$147,325 in pledges and commitments. We have invited almost every member of the Congregation to a house party and presentation. If you have not attended a house party and would like to do so (the desserts have been fabulous!), please call Paul Cohen and he will let you know of upcoming parties. If you haven't sent in your pledge card yet and are keeping it warm, now is the time to part with it and put the Building Campaign over its goal of \$200,000 around the time of the High Holy Days.

It took me a long time in deep thought, and deliberation to make my own pledge: reaching a figure beyond what I could easily pledge and yet one that bore some hint of "les réalités: (the French can put it so gently and yet so correctly). The day after I pledged my "goal" a miracle happened: I was offered an extra teaching position at my job, which just about matches my pledge!

I urge you to put yourself through this valuable process if you haven't done so yet, and let your friends and Congregation leaders support you and talk with you about making your pledge. They have suggested exciting alternatives to just writing a

check, such as having a garage sale, organizing a bake sale, or having a birthday party for yourself with donations to the Building Campaign in lieu of personal gifts.

5) The More Means: When almost all of our own members have made their pledges and building negotiations reach key points, we will contact friends and family members to encourage them to enrich and support the lives of relatives and friends through contributions to the Building Campaign. We will also begin a concerted campaign to reach potential supporters in the larger Jewish, lesbian and gay, and historical communities.



Please start thinking of and collecting the names of family members, friends and acquaintances who may be potential contributors of services or money.

To support these efforts, a second and more directed brochure will be produced by the Public Relations Committee under chair Cathy Nelson. At appropriate times we will also issue special mailings and news releases. Please call me, Mark Feldman, at 777-2344 if you have contacts with people in the media.

So there you have it -- THE THICK OF IT: The Decision, the Coordination, the What's Happening, the Means and the More Means. I hope that by the end of the High Holy Days all this THICKLY-current news will be passe' and I will have to write a "thicker" column.

-Mark Feldman

BIRTHDAYS

Carol Ruth Silver	October 1
Helen Howard	October 4
Richard Inlander	October 4
Danny Kent	October 4
David Brauer	October 5
Mike Zimmerman	October 7
Wendy W.	October 13
Keri Greene	October 14
Ron Moskowitz	October 20
Bernard Pechter	October 20
Chuck Norton	October 21
Terry Meyerson	October 22
Seth Charney	October 23
Allan Berenstein	October 24
Howard (Chad) Cohen	October 24
Ellis Jacobs	October 29
Shelley Fernandez	October 30
Risa Krive	October 30

YAHRZEITS

Helen Rosenberg, mother of	
Frank Wheeler	October 1
Ronald Lane, nephew of	
Hy Rifkin	October 8
Morris Lipshaw, father of Harold	
Lipshaw	10 Tishri/October 8
Nathan Ogus, father of Irene	
Ogus	24 Tishri/October 22
Sara Marcus, mother of Ben	
Marcus	25 Tishri/October 23

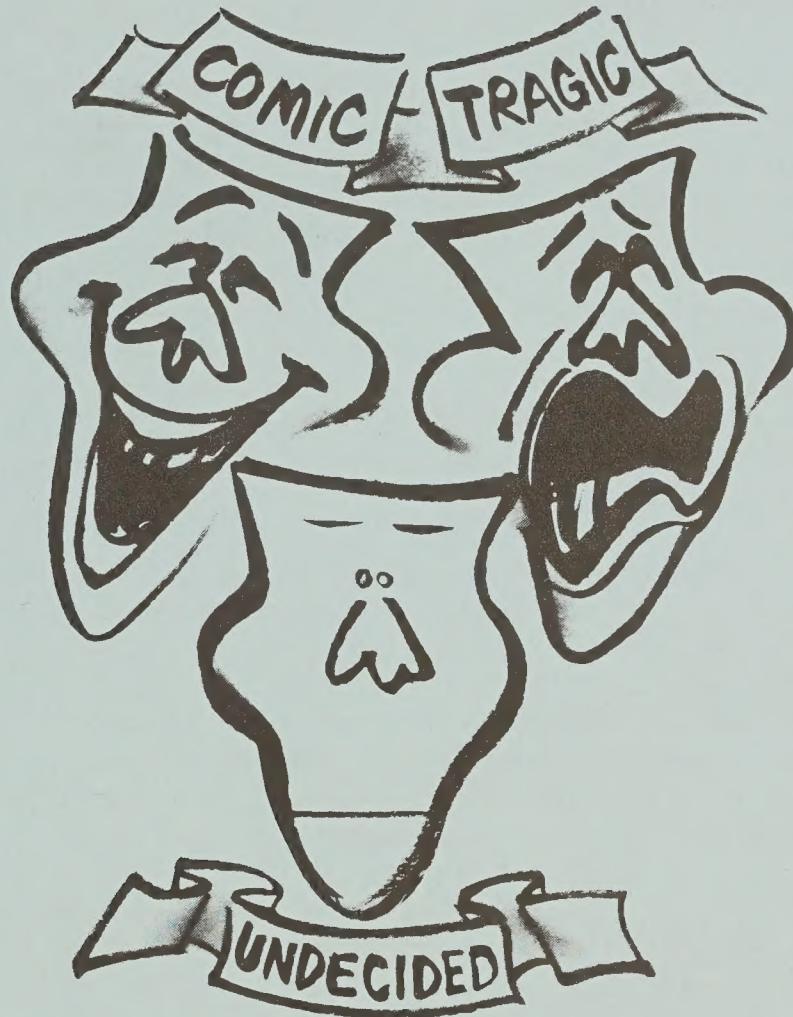
DONATIONS

Dr. A. G. Beauregard Lowell IV
M. Holzman
Two anonymous gifts



AT LAST! GIFT PROBLEMS SOLVED!

Wonder no more. You can honor or memorialize any person on any occasion with a gift to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. A card will be sent to the person you name, and all this can be arranged with a telephone call to Ernie Weinstein at 566-1985. Even Neiman-Marcus runs out of stock, but your congregation has no such problems when it comes to this opportunity!



A NIGHT OF COMEDY

The Program Committee of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav hosts the Screaming Memes, an improvisational comedy group, which has been playing to sold-out houses throughout the Bay Area. The Chronicle says, "The Memes are a howl!"

We have reserved the entire 90-seat The Open Theatre, 441 Clement Street (at 6th Avenue), San Francisco, on Sunday, October 18, promptly at 8:00 p.m. No-host bar will be available. Return this coupon and your check, payable to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, to P. O. Box 5640, SF, CA 94101.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for

_____ member tickets @ \$5.00 each and

_____ non-member tickets at \$6.00 each.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

OPPORTUNITIES...

Lehrhaus Judaica, the Bay Area's school for adult Jewish education, offers courses in Berkeley, San Francisco and Stanford. Some samples: Issues Confronting Contemporary Judaism; Basic Rabbinic Theology, Ethics and Values; The Calendar; The Home; Prayer and Jewish Life; The People of the Book; Introduction to Judaism and many, many more. For information and a free brochure, call 845-7793 (Berkeley), 333-4922 (San Francisco) or 497-1602 (Stanford).

"Sexuality, Authority and the Liberation Church" is the title of a discussion with Dr. Mary Hunt, a feminist theologian, on Wednesday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 1187 Geary (at Franklin). The event is co-sponsored by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, the National Assembly of Religious Women and the Task Force on Gay/Lesbian Issues of the Commission on Social Justice of the San Francisco Archdiocese. Donations at the door are voluntary.

From the newsletter of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, we learn the Vice President George Bush will be in San Francisco on Thursday, October 1 for a no-host cocktail party from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the lower lobby of the Hyatt Union Square. The event, sponsored by United Republican Finance, costs \$15 per person, and could provide us with the opportunity to ask Mr. Bush some important questions. CRIR's monthly meeting, October 12, will be devoted to debate on 16 or so propositions for the San Francisco ballot in the November elections.

SEPTEMBER ONEGS

September 4 by Alan Schrager, in memory of Lillian Schrager

September 11 by Mike Abbott, in honor of his parents

September 18 by Ernie Weinstein, in honor of his mother's visit

September 25 by Mike Rankin, in honor of Hannah Senesch and Rabbi Leo Black

September 29 Rosh Hashanah, by Walter Leiss

The East Bay National Organization for Women (NOW) will hold a "Last Walk for ERA" on Sunday, October 4 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. from Berkeley to Oakland City Hall Park. Women, men and children are invited to participate by walking, pledging donations or attending the closing rally. Proceeds will go to National NOW for campaigns in key non-ratified states. For more information, call NOW at 834-7897 or 843-9878.

A two-day conference on "Youth and Sexuality" will be held on October 10 and 11, sponsored by the Northwest Youth Outreach Alliance and the Sexual Minority Youth Service Coalition. For more information, call Russ Zellers at 776-2103.

"Children of Isaac and Ishmael: Watercolors of Tunisia and Sketches for a Haggadah," by Elias Friedensohn is the featured exhibit at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, until November 1. Call 849-2710 for details, museum hours.

Many of us at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav feel a strong need to participate in a community which offers a progressive, and strong, lesbian/gay Jewish perspective. Many of us recognize the need, too, to explore the many social and political issues which are not dealt with in religious ceremonies. Just as our gayness can not be limited to our sexuality, so too our Jewishness is not limited to liturgy. Those interested in meeting with others in a feminist-oriented discussion group should call Ben Schatz at 441-1158 or Steve Berman at 648-8252. We would welcome your suggestions and questions, and we look forward to hearing from you.

It's not too early to begin planning on attending the seventh annual Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, scheduled for the weekend of July 4, 1982 in Los Angeles. Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim, which last sponsored the Conference in 1978, is already hard at work and is welcoming suggestions, questions and terrific ideas. Harriet Perl and Rick Wasserman, Co-Chairs, can be contacted through BCC at 6000 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

...THERE!

(Continued from page 1.)

It was that hate-filled portent and the apparent deceitful smiles of the many SOS members, as they sang their song of "love" and "freedom," which was really a song of oppression and persecution for so many, that knocked any remaining apathetic wind out of me. Their false love is hate; their pity, persecution; their freedom, oppression. And in God's name! It all brought to mind words Bob Marley wrote in a reggae rhythm, which I hummed during the rest of the rally:

They got so much words to say
They live their lives of pretense
everyday
These are the big fish who always try
to keep down the small fish
Don't expect to be justified by the
laws of men
So don't you forget, no way, who you
are or where you stand in the struggle.

-Chad Cohen

Correction to August Onegs list:

August 28 by Lenny Brill, in honor of
his brother-in-law's birthday
and sister's visit



WORLD FOOD DAY

World Food Day, October 16, will be an occasion for Americans to examine the causes and consequences of hunger at home and abroad, and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the American Food system to respond to the problem.

Established by 147 member nations of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, World Food Day will be observed in more than 80 countries. The United States Congress has passed a joint resolution asking the President for a World Food Day proclamation, and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate activities.

Sufficient food to nourish the body and mind has been declared a fundamental human right by the international community -- a right which is denied hundreds of millions of people around the world, including some in the U.S.A. The National Committee for World Food Day hopes that this fact will be brought to the center of national and world attention on October 16.

Patricia Young, coordinator of the National Committee for World Food Day, says, "World Food Day gives us a chance to consider hunger in America, our children's changing diet, what to do about food price inflation, the loss of family farms, and the loss of land from erosion and urban sprawl. What we want to do is to get people thinking and talking about the issues. We think we should take one day each year to make an assessment of world hunger conditions, to show our concern and to renew our commitment."

Plan on attending the Congregation's benefit Art Fair on Sunday, December 6. Details in forthcoming Forwards. Call the Congregation's office, 621-2871, if you have art, ceramics, antiques to contribute (tax-deductible, too!)

RITUAL CALENDAR

Friday, October 2 Torah Va Yelekh Deut. 31:1-30
Haftorah Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-17
Shabbat Shuva, the Sabbath of Return
Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, Services

Wednesday, October 7 Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre Services at 8:00 p.m., Jewish Community Center

Thursday, October 8 Yom Kippur Services at 10:00 a.m., Jewish Community Center
Yizkor and Ne'ilah Services at 5:30 p.m. (Previously publicized at 4:30 p.m.; 5:30 is the correct time.)

Friday, October 9 Torah Ha'azinu Deut. 32:1-52
Haftorah II Samuel 22:1-51
Daniel Chesir, Services

Monday, October 12 Erev Sukkot Services at the Home of Harry Lutrin

Friday, October 16 Special Torah portion:
Exodus 33:12-34:26;
Numbers 29:23-31
Special Haftorah Reading:
Ezekiel 38:18-39:16
Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, Services
Debbi Goodman, Senior Outreach Coordinator, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Guest Sermon

Friday, October 23 Torah Bereshit Genesis 1:1-6:8
Haftorah Isaiah 42:5-43:11
Simhat Torah (Rejoicing of the Torah) Service
Rosh Chodesh Heshvan
Steven Fritsch Rudser and Ritual Committee, Services

Friday, October 30 Torah Noah Genesis 6:9-11:32
Haftorah Isaiah 54:1-55:5
Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, Services

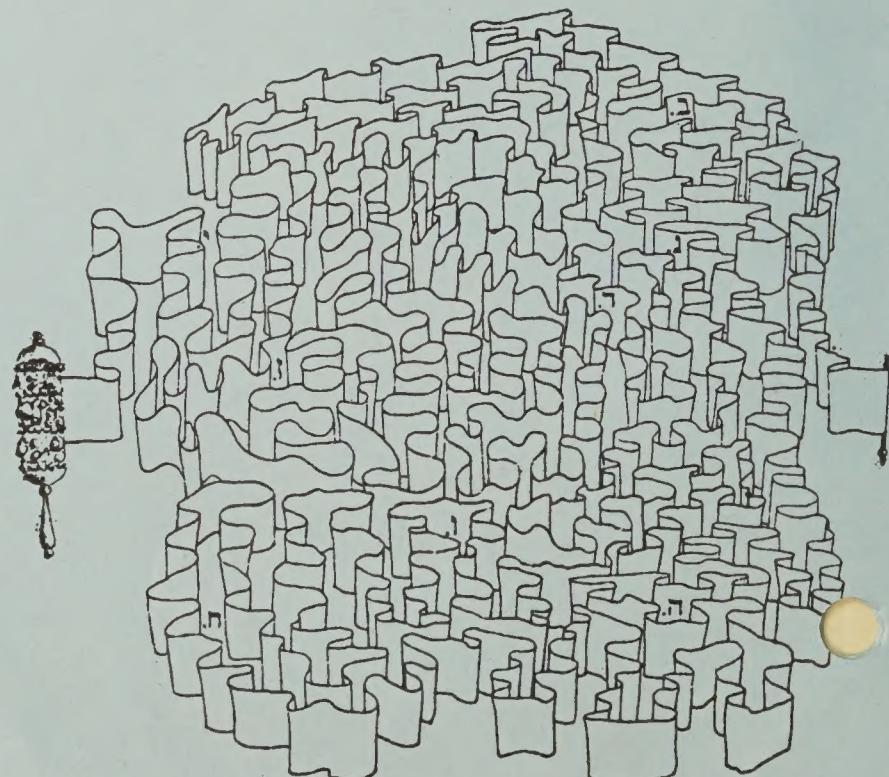
SUKKOT CELEBRATION

On Monday, October 12, we will celebrate Sukkot with services and a potluck dinner at the home of Harry Lutrin, 1801 Melvin, Oakland. Call the synagogue office, 621-2871, for directions or if you need/can offer a ride.

We will begin at 7:00 p.m., and it is suggested that, because traffic on the Bay Bridge and others can be unpredictable, you give yourself plenty of time to get there. If you're a bit early, that's fine, because then you can help the Ritual Committee with decorating the Sukkah. We will worship first, and then eat in the (really gorgeous!) backyard; enter through the gate near the garage.

Traditional foods for the festival are stuffed cabbage, kreplach, nut cakes, pareve coffee cakes, strudel, baklava and apple candy. To make this less complicated: If your last name begins with letter A though J, bring main dishes. Folks whose last names begin with letter K through R, bring appetizers or salads. And those whose last names are in the S through Z category, bring desserts. Beverages will be furnished.

NOTE: We will not have a service at JCC.



SUKKOT, SHEMINI ATZERET AND SIMHAT TORAH

The autumn festival of Sukkot, commemorating the protection afforded the Israelite through their wanderings in the wilderness, is described in the Torah as the feast of in-gathering at the end of the agricultural year (Exodus 23:16). Concerning the manner of celebrating the seven days of Sukkot, which begins on 15 Tishri, we read: "You shall dwell in booths seven days... that your generations may know that I made the Israelites dwell in booths..." (Leviticus 23:42-43).

The eighth day of Sukkot, called Shemini Atzeret (closing of the festival season), is regarded as a separate holiday among traditional Jews, characterized by the special prayer for rain (Geshem), by Yizkor services in memory of the departed, and by the recital of the Book of Ecclesiastes, which contains reflections on the purpose of life and our ceaseless strivings.

According to Maimonides, the moral lesson derived from the festival of Sukkot is that we ought to remember our bad times in our days of prosperity; we will be thereby induced to lead a modest life. Hence, we leave our comfortable homes to dwell in booths that are reminiscent of desert life, lacking conveniences. On the other hand, Sukkot is kept in the autumn season when produce has been gathered from the fields and farmers are free from pressing labor, when there is neither great heat nor troublesome rain and it is possible to dwell in booths, even though they are hastily constructed and unsubstantial.



The four species, of which the lulav (palm branch) is the most prominent, are a symbolic expression of our rejoicing in the change from life in the wilderness to life in a country replete with fruit trees and rivers. These particular four species (lulav, etrog, hadassim, aravot) were plentiful in Israel, and were easily obtainable for everyone. Besides, they have a good appearance; two of them, the citron (etrog) and the myrtle (hadas), diffuse excellent fragrance; they keep fresh and green for seven days... (Guide, 3:43).

The frail sukkah, which must not exceed a height of 20 cubits (30 feet), is said to convey the idea that we should never be haughty. The walls of the sukkah must be sufficiently strong to withstand ordinary gusts of wind. The shade, which is the root meaning of the word sukkah, must exceed the rays of the sun. This signifies that we are to be steadfast in our beliefs and humble in our behavior. The stars must be visible through the roof covering of twigs and leaves as a constant reminder that all blessings reach us from God. The four species symbolize the four types of people who, though different in character, must live in unity and mutual understanding in order to form a happier human society. The joyful note characterizing the seven days of Sukkot is extended to Shemini Atzeret, coinciding with Simhat Torah in Israel. In the diaspora, however, Simhat Torah is celebrated on the ninth day.

The name Simhat Torah was not known in Talmudic times as the name of a special festival marking the annual completion of the Torah readings. It came to use presumably around the ninth century in Babylonia, where the one-year cycle for the reading of the Five Books of Moses prevailed. The seven processions with the Torah scrolls on Simhat Torah became customary in the 16th century.

On Simhat Torah, the last section of the Torah is read for the Hatan Torah (groom of the Torah), followed by the Hatan Bereshit (groom of Genesis) for whom the beginning of the Torah is read. This procedure is in

keeping with the idea that Torah study is endless. Special attention is paid to children, who come to the synagogue where they receive flags depicting Biblical scenes and are given apples and sweets.

At the end of each of the seven hakkafot (processional circuits), joined by children carrying flags with appropriate verses, there is a great deal of singing and dancing on the part of those honored with carrying the Torah scrolls. The hakkafot continue long enough until everyone has carried a Torah around the synagogue.

-Rabbi Allen B. Bennett

THE PARADOX OF KOL NIDRE

Kol Nidre, highlighted by its location at the beginning of the 24-hour Fast of Atonement and chanted in a melody of great spiritual force, exerts an enormous impact. It is not a prayer but a legal formula for the annulment of certain types of vows. The name of God is never mentioned. The language is a mixture of Talmudic Aramaic and the Hebrew of traditional prayer. It is not part of the Yom Kippur liturgy. It is a prefatory declaration which must be recited before sunset ushers in the Holy Day.

Kol Nidre has had to survive centuries of powerful and persistent opposition by eminent rabbis as well as enemies and detractors of Judaism. Rabbis challenged the concept of blanket annulment of sacred vows. As a result, the text of Kol Nidre has been amended to such an extent that today's version defies the laws of logic and syntax alike. That a disputed formula like Kol Nidre should have won a central place in the standard liturgy is a phenomenon which may be due to the following factors: The folk tradition that associated Kol Nidre with Jewish martyrdom during the forced conversion in 7th century Visigothic Spain to the 15th century Spanish Inquisition. It is probably true that "secret Jews" in various times and places used Kol Nidre to absolve themselves from vows made under coercion; the plaintive melody has been associated by popular tradition with persecution and martyrdom.

The best known melodies are the familiar Ashkenazic and two current Sephardic versions, one for Western and the other for Eastern communities. The chant is repeated three times, beginning in almost a whisper and gradually increasing in volume until it reaches a crescendo of clear, resonant tones.

Psychoanalyst Theodore Reik believes that Kol Nidre speaks to the collective Jewish unconscious of its deepest tribal memories, which certainly seems to be the case with even the most anti-religious of Jews.

-Hy Rifkin



SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

On Friday, October 16, Debbi Goodman of the Senior Outreach Program of Jewish Family and Children's Services will speak to us about participating in the Program's outreach to isolated senior citizens in the Bay Area. Many elderly persons live by themselves or in homes with few, if any, other Jewish residents, making their isolation from the Jewish community even more difficult to bear. A number of members of the Congregation have been involved in the Program, visiting seniors, particularly around holidays but sometimes more often, and in her guest sermon, Ms. Goodman will tell us about the program and how we can become more involved.

EDUCATION PROGRAM - NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Va'ad has asked me to chair the Education Committee for the current year. Accepting this responsibility, I am seeking to find ways to meet the specific and stated needs of our membership with respect to Jewish learning. Following is a short questionnaire which will give us guidance in designing courses. Just to give you an idea of the courses which have been requested so far, we have been asked to offer a class in beginning prayerbook Hebrew, a class in Jewish cooking for holidays and festivals, and a basic introduction to Judaism course

for those who know very little or want a refresher. We may be able to offer a Yiddish class, a history class, a Jewish philosophy class, and one-time programs on certain themes and subjects. We are looking into an educational films program, a lecture series and other possibilities. Please answer the following questions and return the form to CSZ, P. O. Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101.

-Rabbi Allen B. Bennett

1) Please indicate subject areas which you would like to study:

History Theology Philosophy

Biblical Hebrew Modern Hebrew

Liturgy Culture and Customs

Introduction to Judaism Literature

Other: _____

2) Please indicate any courses which you would be willing to teach:

3) Please indicate the format(s) you prefer:

weekly classes lecture series

one-time but day-long learning sessions

short-term courses

Other: _____

4) Please indicate the best days and times for you to meet:

5) Do you know anyone interested in teaching courses?

Yes. I'll ask her/him to call you at 621-2871.

Yes. Her/His name and phone number: _____

This person's specialty is _____

6) Additional comments, suggestions:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

NOTE: Since we are already late in getting our Fall educational program started, please return this questionnaire, or call the Congregation's office at 621-2871, at your earliest convenience. Thank you for helping to keep Jewish education alive through our own synagogue.

OCTOBER 1981 --- TISHRI-HESHVAN 5742

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 27 28 Elul	September 28 Erev Rosh Hashanah*	September 29 Rosh Hashanah*	September 30 Second Day Rosh Hashanah	October 1	October 2 Services-- Rabbi Allen Bennett*	October 3 Shabbat Shuva
October 4 6 Tishri	October 5 Membership Committee 336-1449	October 6	October 7 Erev Yom Kippur*	October 8 Yom Kippur*	October 9 Services-- Daniel Chesir*	October 10 12 Tishri
October 11 Va'ad Meeting 621-2871 13 Tishri	October 12 Erev Sukkot**	October 13 First Day Sukkot	October 14 Newsletter Meeting 621-0628	October 15	October 16 Services-- Rabbi Allen Bennett*	October 17 19 Tishri
October 18 Freedom Run Screaming Memes 20 Tishri	October 19 Hoshanah Rabbah	October 20 Shemini Atzeret	October 21 Simhat Torah	October 22	October 23 Services-- Steven Fritsch Rudser* 25 Tishri	October 24 26 Tishri
October 25 27 Tishri	October 26 28 Tishri	October 27 29 Tishri	October 28 30 Tishri	October 29 1 Heshvan	October 30 Services-- Rabbi Allen Bennett*	October 31 2 Heshvan 3 Heshvan

*Please see Ritual Calendar, page 8, for details.

**Please see article on Sukkot celebration, page 8, for details.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS	
If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.	Attach current address label here.
NEW ADDRESS: Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	
Mail to: Sha'ar Zahav P.O. Box 5640 S.F. CA 94101	

